



Monochrome Joker

Kaili Sorano

2



irogane
Monochrome Hunter
MONOCHROMATIC FACTOR
BUSTING A BUST

Monochrome Factor Volume 2

Created By KAILI SORANO

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Monochrome factor

Vol. 2

by Kaili Sorano



Shirogane



A shin from the shadow world. It seems he's been looking for Akira for some time, but his motivations are unclear. He acts as Akira's shadow when necessary.

Akira (Shin form)



In shin form, Akira's hair turns from brown to black, and his outfit changes as well. When he transforms, two short blades appear in his hands.

Akira Nikaido



Akira was a typical slacker high school student until he lost his shadow and was forced to become a shin. Since he currently has nothing better to do, he's going along with it.

Master



The man who is so far known only as "Master" runs a bar named Aging. Though he's blind, he's an adept with the ability to sense shin. He can heal with his hands.

Aya Suzuno



At school, Aya is on the discipline committee and in the kendo club. Everyone except Akira seems to fear her tongue and her practice sword.

Kengo Asamura



Kengo is Akira's best friend from school, though Akira's definition of "friend" seems a bit off. His sister Moya keeps getting possessed.

Previously in

Monochrome After

Akiro Nikoido thought he had a normal life until he met Shirogone, who told him that the balance between the human world and the shadow world has been distorted. In order to help restore the balance and fight kokuchi shadow monsters, Akiro has become a shin—a creature of the shadow world. Not that Akiro had much choice—since his doppelganger (his shadow) accidentally got destroyed, his shin form is all he has left. Being shadows themselves, shin can't be seen by normal human eyes, but Akiro can appear human again if Shirogone acts as his shadow.

It seems that the balance distortion is having an effect on normal humans as well, however. Normally only an adept can see shin and other shadow creatures, but Akiro's friend Kengo's sister Moyu, who has become particularly susceptible to possession by kokuchi, was able to see Shirogone. And during Akiro's successful fight with the kokuchi that possessed Moyu, Kengo gained the ability to see Shirogone as well. Now the scene shifts to the shadow realm...

1 01010101010

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1 01010101010



ISN'T
NANAYA
AROUND?



AGAIN?



HE MUST
BE OUT.

WHAT?
NANAYA?
I DON'T
KNOW.



HE'S SO
IMMATURE.



I
HATE
HIM!

HE'S NOT
MUCH OF
A FIGHTER,
BUT HE
ACTS LIKE
A BIG SHOT
AND PREYS
ON THE
WEAK!



I AGREE
TOO!

Yaaay!!

I
AGREE!

WE
DEFINITELY
SHOULD!



I THINK
WE'D
BETTER
REPORT
THIS TO
HOMURABI-
SAMA.



YEAH, WHY
NOT? HE'S
SUCH A
SCUMBAG!



OH,
COME
ON! WHY
NOT?



NO, LET'S
NOT.



...I DON'T
ENJOY
SEEING
BLOOD
HERE.



DON'T
YOU
UNDER-
STAND?

ONCE THIS
REACHES
HOMURABI-
SAMA'S EAR,
HE WON'T
LET IT GO.



SHE'S
RIGHT.



BUT HE'S
ASKING
FOR IT.

Don't you
think?



UNFOR-
TUNATELY...



#005: Phantom Killer



SHE SAYS
SHE FEELS LIKE
SHE'S FINALLY
FREE FROM ALL
THE SPIRITS THAT
WERE POSSESS-
ING HER, SO
SHE'S FEELING
PRETTY GOOD.

HOW HAS
YOUR SISTER
BEEN SINCE
THE INCIDENT?



OH,
I SEE.

I REMOVED
ALL OF THE
SHADOW
CREATURES
FROM HER
BODY.

SO I THINK
YOUR SISTER
WILL BE
INFECTION-
FREE FOR
A WHILE.



FORGET.

SNAP

FORGET
WHAT HAP-
PENED.

BAM

AUGH!

THE
STORY
GOES
BACK
TO LAST
NIGHT...

FORGET.

BOOM
DIE!



WHY
IS THIS
IDiot,
KENSO,
CHATting
WITH SHI-
ROGANE
NOW?





ONCE PEOPLE
RECOGNIZE
THAT SHADOW
CREATURES
EXIST, THEY
CAN SEE THEM,
EVEN AFTER
THE WORLD'S
ATTRIBUTE
RETURNS
TO LIGHT.

TO SEE
SOMETHING
MEANS REC-
OGNIZING ITS
EXISTENCE.

ARE YOU
GOING
THROUGH
A REBEL-
LIOUS
PHASE?!

Y-you're
scary!

Don't
get
carried
away
now,
okay?

WHY DO
I HAVE TO
EXPLAIN IT
TO YOU?

OKAY,
OKAY,
AKIRA-
KUN.

YOU CAN
LEAVE THIS
TO ME.

RUUH?

Eek!!

BEFORE
YOU CAN
ERASE MY
MEMORY,
YOU'RE
GONNA
KILL ME!

CRAP.
THEN
ERASING
HIS MEM-
ORY IS
THE ONLY
WAY!

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S GOING
ON... SHIN,
ATTRIBUTES,
THOSE BLACK
MONSTERS...
THIS IS ALL
BEYOND
ME!

WHY
DON'T YOU
EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING
TO ME,
TOO?!



WHAT THE
HECK'RE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?
"CLISTON"?
YOU'RE
TAKING THIS
TOO FAR...

...THE
LEGEN-
DARY EVIL
SPIRIT
TAMER
!!

...CLIS-
TON...

What I
just saw
plenty
need to
stop
outfit

SUDDENLY,
AKIRA-KUN
APPEARED
AND FINISHED
ALL THE
MONSTERS
OFF RIGHT
BEFORE
MY EYES!

THAT'S
RIGHT.
AKIRA-KUN
TURNED
OUT TO
BE...

BUT HE'S
CAPTURED
HIS HEART,
ALL RIGHT.

SHIRO-
GANE'S
PUSHED
THIS TOO
FAR.

IS KENGO
SHIRO, OR WHAT?

AND
YOU'RE SO
GULLIBLE,
YOU KNOW
THAT?

What
you're
saying!

IS THIS
TRUE,
AKIRA?

I'm
not
satisfied!

THAT'S
KID'S
FEELING
ABOUT
THIS

SHIRO-
GANE!
ENOUGH!
PLEASE
STOP.

AND SO,
WE HAVE
TEAMED UP
IN ORDER TO
ELIMINATE
THE SHADOW
MONSTERS.



I'M JOINING YOU GUYS!!



AND SO...



KENGO'S ALL
CARRIED AWAY.
HE THINKS
HE'S JOINING
A GROUP OF
HEROES OUT
OF A ROLE-
PLAYING GAME
OR SOMETHING



HE KILLS
RANDOMLY
AND LEAVES
ALMOST
NO TRACE
WHATSOEVER,
NOT EVEN A
FOOTPRINT.

MORE THAN
TEN PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN
KILLED SO
FAR, ALWAYS
AT NIGHT.



...INTER-
ESTING
INFOR-
MATION?

HAVE YOU
HEARD ABOUT
THAT SERIAL
KILLER CASE?
YESTERDAY,
HE STRUCK
AGAIN, JUST
AROUND THE
CORNER.



DON'T YOU
THINK THIS CASE
SOUNDS REALLY
SUSPICIOUS?



THE ONLY
THING THEY
KNOW IS THAT
THE SUSPECT
USES A VERY
SHARP, UNIQUELY
SHAPED KNIFE.



ACCORDING
TO THE ONLY
WITNESS THEY
CURRENTLY
HAVE, THE
SUSPECT IS
INVISIBLE.

WHAT?

OH, R-
RIGHT...

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
AKIRA-
KUN?

I KNEW
IT!

THAT
IS AN
INTER-
ESTING
CASE.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

Villager A: "By the way, something strange
has been going on in this village lately."

HE'S LIKE AN
INSIGNIFICANT
CHARACTER IN A
FANTASY ROLE-
PLAYING GAME, LIKE
SOME VILLAGER
WHO STARTS TALK-
ING ABOUT CERTAIN
INCIDENTS WITHOUT
BEING ASKED. WHAT
DO YOU THINK?

WELL,
LET ME
ANALYZE
KENSO'S
CURRENT
SITUA-
TION.

LISTEN,
WHAT DO
YOU WANT
FROM US?
WHY TELL
US ABOUT
THIS CASE?

THE CASE
YOU JUST
DESCRIBED
WAS ALREADY
COVERED BY
THE MORNING
NEWS PRO-
GRAMS.

So
there!

I'm
never
telling
Akira
anything
interesting
again!

YOU'RE
MAKING
FUN OF
ME!
YOU DON'T
EVEN AP-
PRECiate
MY GIVING YOU
THIS VALUABLE
INFORMATION!

THEERE!
YUUU!
AAARE!

BECAUSE
IT'D BE A
LOT OF
FUN TO
SOLVE IT!!

Sigh
OH,
GOOD
GRIEF...

I FINALLY
FOUND
YOU!

PREPARE
TO BE
PUNISHED...





SO ALL
THAT'S LEFT IS
HOMEROOM.
COOL!



WHOA!
SIXTH
PERIOD IS
ALMOST
OVER!

Not to

WHAT?
IT'S AL-
READY
TIME FOR
AYA TO
SHOW
UP?!

Oh
no!



IT IS NOT
COOL, YOU
IDIOT!



IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU WEREN'T
ON THE
ROOFTOP
WHERE YOU
ALWAYS
HANG OUT...

...SO I'VE
BEEN LOOKING
EVERYWHERE
FOR YOU TWO
SINCE THE
BEGINNING OF
FIFTH PERIOD!!



SHE
MUST
HAVE
P.M.S.

YOU...

She's so
crazy...

AYA'S IN
A BAD
MOOD
TODAY.

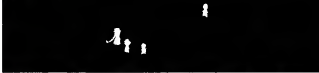


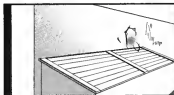
アハ...

YOU
REALLY
DON'T
KNOW
WHY?

HA
HA
HA
...









KENGO...
JUST GO
HOME.

WHAT
?

!

THE
LAST
INCIDENT
WAS JUST
DOWN THE
STREET
FROM
HERE.

OH!
WHILE
WE'RE
HERE,
HOW ABOUT
GOING ON
A STAKE-
OUT FOR
THE SERIAL
KILLER?

WHY?!

RIGHT NOW,
I'M SO TIRED,
I CAN'T BE
BOtherED
GOING STUPID
STUFF.

*Just leave it
to the police*

I'M
SURE IT'D
BE A LOT
OF FUN.

BUT...



**THAT'S
ENOUGH.**

**HOW
CAN
HE
THINK
IT'S
FUN
?**



**IT'S
SO
HARD**

**WE
CAN'T**

**I'M
RISKING
MY LIFE.**

YOU'RE
TAKING
WHAT HAP-
PENED
YESTER-
DAY TOO
LIGHTLY.

CUT IT
OUT, WILL
YOU?

KENGO

OUR
BUSINESS HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH YOU,
UNDERSTAND?





WE
DON'T
NEED
YOU.

I...
I...

CLENCH



STOP
STICKING
YOUR NOSE
IN THIS.



I...
I...



I'M JUST
A STUPID
VILLAGER!!

IT'S
LIKE
YOU
SAID!



Waaaah!



ANYWAY,
KENGO-KUN
WAS JUST
TRYING TO
HELP YOU.



SHIROGANE.



YOU WERE
PRETTY
HARD ON
HIM THIS
TIME.

WILL HE
BE ALL
RIGHT?





I HOPE THE
PROBLEM IS
AS SMALL AS
HE BELIEVES.

IS THAT
REALLY TRUE?



BUT EARLIER,
I GUESSED
SOMETHING.



"THIS
PROBLEM
IS JUST
BETWEEN YOU
AND ME."



I'M
WORRIED...

IS HE
HERE?





I WAS
PRACTICING SO
HARD FOR THE
COMPETITION,
I LOST TRACK
OF TIME.

DAD'S
GONNA
BE MAD!

YIKES!
IT'S
PAST
SEVEN
O'CLOCK!

たったっ
TROMP TROMP

I'M SUCH
AN IDIOT.

WE HAVE A
DEAD AT HOME.
I SHOULD
PRACTICE MY
KENDO THERE
INSTEAD OF
AT SCHOOL.



UGH...I
HATE WALKING
ALONE IN
DARK.

I HEARD THEY
FOUND ANOTHER
VICTIM OF THAT
SERIAL KILLER
YESTERDAY.

I'm scared.





HE'S
SO
GROSS.



I SHOULD
PASS HIM
BUCKLY.



JUST IN
CASE...



Whew.

HE'S PROBABLY
JUST WAITING
FOR SOMEONE,
OR SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

I BET I'M
WORRY-
ING TOO
MUCH.

I THINK
YOU'D
HAVE TO BE
EXTREMELY
UNLUCKY...



STEP... STEP... STEP... STEP
λ λ λ λ λ λ λ λ



...TO RUN
INTO A
SERIAL
KILLER.

?!





YOU
ALMOST
HURT ME!!

HEY!

WHAT'D
YOU DO
THAT
FOR?!



HUH?

EVEN A
LEGALLY
BLIND
PERSON
COULD SEE
YOU THIS
CLOSE UP!

YOU
CAN...
SEE
ME?



HEY!!

AS I
SUSPECTED,
YOU HAVE
A KNIFE IN
YOUR HAND,
DON'T YOU?

Are you
screaming?



TO KEEP
ANY MORE
INNOCENT
PEOPLE FROM
BECOM-
ING YOUR
VICTIMS...

I'LL
FIGHT YOU
OVER
TO THE
POLICE!



WHAT IF
I AM?

NO WAY...
YOU
WOULDN'T
BE THE
SERIAL KILL-
ER WHO'S
BEEN ON
THE NEWS,
BY ANY
CHANCE?



...BUT
I'LL USE
ALL MY
STRENGTH
TO FIGHT
YOU.



I DON'T
WANT
TO GET
HURT OR
KILLED...



HUH?

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



JUDGING
BY YOUR
REACTION
TIME, YOU
MUST BE
PRETTY
SKILLFUL,
BUT...



OF
COURSE
YOU CAN
SEE ME...
TONIGHT,
THE CLOUDS
ARE COVER-
ING THE
MOON.

I SEE. SO
YOU'RE A
MARTIAL
ARTIST, AS
THEY CALL
THEM?



...HUMAN!







WHOOSH







SHIROBANE!
THEY KEEP
COMING,
ONE AFTER
ANOTHER.

THERE'S
NO END
TO THIS!



THEN LET'S
DESTROY THEM
AT ONCE,
SHALL WE?





あ、
STUNNED



!!



WE
BARELY
MADE IT,
HUH?

...AKIRA?!

DO WE HAVE
TO COME TO
THE RESCUE
IN CASES LIKE
THIS? IT'S
SUCH A PAIN.

HUH
?!





I'M GOING
TO HAVE
LOTS OF FUN
TONIGHT.



Whatever...
IT'S TOO
MUCH OF
A BOTHER
TO THINK
ABOUT IT
RIGHT NOW.

THOUGH
ONE THING
IS CLEAR
NOW, AT
LEAST.



WHAT?
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

What
are you
saying?

ARE YOU
REALLY
CONFIDENT
IN YOUR
COMBAT
SKILLS?



HEY! YOU
TWO OVER
THERE.



JUST
ANSWER
MY QUES-
TION.

HEY, THAT
KOKUCHI IS
ALL OVER
YOU!





HE'S A SHIN.



#006: Nanaya



...A SHIN.



WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



I NEVER
EXPECTED
THIS TO
HAPPEN
SO SOON.

THIS IS
A BAD
SIGN.



...A SHIN.

HE'S...



A SHIN?!



I DIDN'T
KNOW
THERE
WERE
OTHER
SHIN...



...
BESIDES
US!



FIRST, WHY
DON'T YOU
TELL ME WHO
YOU ARE?



MMM...
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I
WAS GOING
TO SAY.











COME ON.
DON'T YOU
WANT TO
FIGHT ME?



...SUDDENLY
CHANGED.



WELL
THEN...

NOPE.

I'M GOING
TO FIGHT
YOU LAST.

WHY?

I PREFER
TO FINISH
OFF THE
WEAK ONES
FIRST.

I ALWAYS
SAVE MY
FAVORITE
PART FOR
THE END.

...ENOUGH
CHATTER
FOR NOW.



I HAVE A
FEELING THAT
WITH YOU,
FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN A LONG
WHILE, I'LL
HAVE A PRETTY
GOOD FIGHT.

I DON'T
WANT
ANYONE
INTER-
FERING
WITH US.
Y'KNOW
?!



Wakana
my
sister
sister!







JUST
KEEP
YOUR
MOUTH
SHUT...











...I FEEL THE
SAME KIND
OF AURA AS
THAT SERIAL
KILLER HAD...

...COMING
FROM YOU.

BECAUSE...



Heh heh...



...BUT...



DON'T
WORRY. I'M
ON AKIRA-
KUN'S SIDE.

He's in good
hands.

I'M
IMPRESSED
WITH YOUR
INTUITION.

Heh heh
heh.





...THIS HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH YOU.

SO I DON'T
WANT YOU
PRYING INTO
THIS MATTER,
OKAY?



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TODAY.

WHAT THE
HECK IS
GOING ON?



That
must be
the reason.



WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING
ON?

WHAT WAS
THAT THING
I SAW
EARLIER?

...AKIRA?

WHAT
IN THE
WORLD...

HAVE YOU
GIVEN
ANYONE
INVOLVED

IN...









WHAT?

DON'T TELL
ME YOU
REALLY ARE
GOOD FOR
NOTHING!

How much

AS A
SHIN?

BUT IF YOU
DON'T HAVE
A SPECIAL
POWER LIKE
MINE, YOU'D
BETTER GET
A BIT MORE
SERIOUS OR
YOU'LL BE
IN DEEP
TROUBLE.

SOON, MY
POWER
WILL BE
EXTREMELY
STRONG.

I'VE ONLY BEEN
A SHIN FOR A FEW
YEARS, SO I CAN
ONLY ACTIVATE
AND EXERT MY
POWER THROUGH
A WEAPON.

THIS ISN'T
A FIGHT
BETWEEN
HUMANS!

STAB







I SAID

...



COME ON.
LET'S HAVE
SOME
MORE FUN!

AH!

THERE
YOU GO! I
KNEW YOU
COULD DO
BETTER!



...TO SHUT
YOUR STUPID
MOUTH!!





*It sure
looks to be
someone
hardheaded*

**HOW
COME
YOU USED
YOUR FIST,
NOT YOUR
WEAPON?**



**YOU
SON OF
A...**



YOU...



**SHUT
UP.**

**HOW I
FIGHT IS
NONE
OF YOUR
BUSINESS.**



**YOU
DON'T QUITE
UNDERSTAND
THE SITUATION
YOU'RE IN,
DO YOU?!**



HEY.

I'M
AFRAID
I CAN'T
KEEP FIGHT-
ING LIKE
THIS ANY
LONGER.



SHIRO-
GANE'S
STILL NOT
BACK.

CRAP.





PERHAPS
YOU'RE
THINKING...

YOU'LL BE
ALL RIGHT IF
YOU MANAGE
TO KEEP
FIGHTING...

...UNTIL HE
COMES
BACK?



YOU'RE
TOO OPTI-
MISTIC.



...YOU'RE
FISSING
ME OFF!



SO
OPTIMISTIC
THAT...

JAB

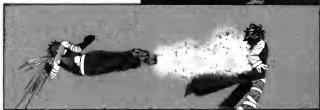


ZING



WOBBLE
30...







LET'S
FINISH
THIS...



...
SHALL
WE?!



WHOOSH

BUT IF
HE'S JUST
NOW IN THE
PROCESS OF
ACTIVATING
THAT
POWER...



PLUS, HE
POSSESSES
SOME KIND
OF SPECIAL
ABILITY.

HE'S
SUPERIOR
TO ME IN
ALL WAYS—
SPEED,
REACTION
TIME,
POWER...

SKID



....I CAN
PROBABLY
STILL GET
HIM!!



I CAN'T
DEFEND
MYSELF IN
TIME!!

WHAT'S HE
TRYING TO DO
WHILE I'M
ACTIVATING
MY POWER?
IS HE OUT OF
HIS MIND?





I TOLD YOU,
YOU'RE TOO
OPTIMISTIC,
YOU IDIOT.

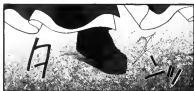




YOUR KNIFE
SEEMED TO
MOMENTARILY
HESITATE RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF ME.

DON'T GET
SCARED...
@CHICKEN.







AKIRA-
KUN!!



#007: Black





はく...
GAPE



WHAT
?!



JUST STAY
PUT FOR
NOW.



I TOLD YOU
I WAS GOING
TO FIGHT
YOU LAST.





I GUESS
IT'S ABOUT
TIME TO
FINISH
YOU OFF!



UGH!





*I'M
GOLD.*



Whoooo

Whoooo

I CAN'T
GO ON LIKE
THIS ANY
LONGER.



I FEEL
LIKE I'M IN
A BLOCK
OF ICE...



MY ENTIRE
BODY IS
GOING
NUMB...

TRIMBLE



.....



!



BA-
DUM

NOT
YET!

CATCH

BA-DUM





I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THIS~



THE SHADOW
MOLECULES
ARE DECOM-
POSING?









WHAT
WAS...

...THAT?



WHAT IN
THE WORLD
IS HE?!



I MIGHT
AS WELL
JUST...

CRAP...
I'D BETTER
NOT PROLONG
THIS FIGHT.













LOOKS LIKE
YOUR MASTER
HAS BEEN...

...NEGLECTING
HIS APPRENTICES'
EDUCATION.



WHAT
THE
HELL
IS
HE
?!!



UGH...
WHAT...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!



...HEH
...!



DIDN'T
YOU LEARN
YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED
TO SHOW
OFF YOUR
SHIN
POWER?



YOU'RE
LIVING
PROOF
OF THAT.
HUNTING
HUMANS
ON THIS
SIDE, EH?

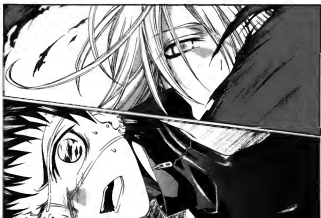


CRACKLE



SO, DIE.

A BRAT LIKE
YOU DOESN'T
DESERVE TO
BE A SHIN.









IT'S A BIT
PREMATURE,
BUT I SUP-
POSE WAR
HAS BEEN
DECLARED.



Hmph.

OH
WELL...

281



...MORE-
OVER...





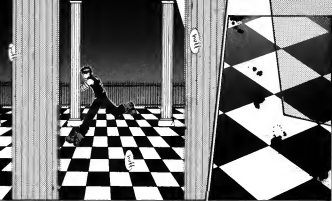
BECAUSE
YOU WERE SO
WEAK, I THOUGHT
IT WAS JUST AN
ACCIDENTAL RE-
SEMBLANCE...

WELL...

...FROM
NOW ON,
I'LL EXPECT
A LOT MORE
FROM YOU...

...BUT
NOW I'M
RELIEVED.

...AKIRA-
KUN.



**YOU'RE
SUCH A
GOOF!!**



**THAT WAS
A NIGHT-
MARE!**

**GRAP.
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
SOMEONE
LIKE HIM
EXISTS**







THAT SHIN I
ENCOUNTERED
WAS OUT OF
OUR LEAGUE.

YOU TWO
WOULD BE
NO MATCH
FOR HIM.

STOP
SAYING
WHATEVER
YOU FEEL
LIKE!



JUST
ANSWER
MY
QUES-
TION!!



SAMAKI?

DID
YOU JUST
SAW YOU
SAW A
SHIN OUT
THERE?



HUH?

WHY
DO YOU
ASK?

WHAT
DID HE
LOOK
LIKE?



















THAT NAME
MAKES
ME FEEL
NOSTALGIC.

SHIRO-
GANE...



I'M
SURE HE
HASN'T...

I WONDER
HOW MANY
YEARS HAVE
PASSED
SINCE THEN.

AFTER
ALL...

FORGIVEN
ME YET.



...I
KILLED
HIM ONCE
BEFORE.



#008: Reprimand





WELL, I WONDER WHAT THIS BUSINESS WITH THE SHIN WAS ALL ABOUT.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HIM. COR-RECT?

RIGHT.



HERE.

WATER.

TAP



AH...

THANKS.

GET SOME REST UNTIL THE PAIN SUBSIDES.

Tap for a while, until the bar closes.



AH... I DON'T MIND GETTING IT FIXED...

OR I COULD JUST GET RID OF IT.

TAP

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH THAT HAT?

You can't use it anymore, can you?

HMM?



.....



I KNOW.

spaced out

...WAIT A MINUTE! I'VE NEVER PULLED ANY DOVES FROM THAT HAT!!

uh-uh?

OH MAN. YOU COULDN'T EVEN CONJURE A DOVE FROM THAT HAT ANYMORE, HUH?

I was hoping you'd show up again.





I DON'T
THINK HE
WOULD
MAKE HIS
MOVE RIGHT
AWAY, BUT
ARE YOU
CERTAIN...

...THAT
EVERY-
THING WILL
BE ALL
RIGHT?



HOMU-
RABI?



I HAVE TO
CONFRONT HIM
SOMEDAY.

I KNEW
I WOULDN'T
BE ABLE
TO HIDE
FOREVER.



...
HOMU-
RABI?

WHO
IS...



BESIDES, IT
ISN'T A GOOD
IDEA TO LET
HIM RUN
LOOSE.

WAIT A
MINUTE.





NO.

まはり
BLUNT

WHY
NOT?

BUT HE
NEEDS
TO--



SHIROGANE
DOESN'T
WANT ME
TO TELL
YOU, SO...

I-I'M
SORRY.



OH...

...
YEAH
?



"YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO TELL
HIM"?











**STOP
FOLLOW-
ING ME!!**



**ALL
RIGHT.
I CAN
SHAKE
'EM.**



**WHAT'S
WRONG
?**

**YOU
SUDDENLY
STARTED
RUNNING
AWAY.**

—five minutes later—



Ha ha ha!



**I'M IM-
PRESSED.**

**YOU CAN
RUN VERY
FAST,
AKIRA-
KUN!**

Completely failed to get away

BUT
YOU'VE
GOT NO
STAMINA.



WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS TO
ME?







BUT YOU
NEVER TELL
ME ANYTHING
IMPORTANT
ABOUT WHAT'S
GOING ON.



AND
YOU
KNOW...

...BACK
WHEN WE
MET, YOU
SAID...



...^oIT
MUST BE
YOU.^o



IF YOU WANT
TO WORK WITH
ME, YOU NEED
TO TELL ME
EVERYTHING.



AND ^oYOU
DON'T HAVE
TO TELL
HIM.^o



YOU SAY
THINGS LIKE,
^oYOU DON'T
HAVE TO
KNOW ABOUT
IT YET.^o



...I'VE
STARTED TO
THINK YOU'RE
TAKING
ADVANTAGE
OF ME.

WITHOUT ANY
EXPLANATION
FOR WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING ON...



SHOVE

DAMMIT!



I TOLD
YOU I HATE
BEING TAKEN
ADVANTAGE
OF!



HOW DARE
YOU TREAT
ME LIKE THIS,
WHEN I'VE
BEEN TRYING
TO HELP YOU?



IF YOU
KEEP
HIDING
THINGS
FROM
ME...

...HOW
CAN I
TRUST
YOU?





YOU
ASKED
WHY I
DON'T
JUST
EXPLAIN
EVERY-
THING.



WE'VE BEEN
TOGETHER
CONSTANTLY.

IT'S NAT-
URAL THAT
YOU'D FEEL
STRESSED.

HEY...



BUT
BEFORE
I DO...

... RUSTLE

...I
HAVE...

...ONE THING
I MUST SAY
TO YOU.





THAT
MURDEROUS
STARE...

IT'S
LIKE...

WHAT
THE...?



YOU'RE
TOO
WEAK.

HEY,
TAK.

SERIOUSLY,
I'M NOT
KIDDING
AROUND.



GET-
TING INTO
FIGHTS IS
ROUTINE
FOR YOU,
ISN'T IT?

OF COURSE,
AMONG OR-
DINARY HUMAN
BEINGS, YOU
WOULD BE
CONSIDERED
STRONG.



...HE BECAME
A TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
PERSON!

AKIRA-
KUN.

THE LAST
TIME I SAW
YOU FIGHT,
I WAS VERY
DISAPPOINTED.

THAT'S
not!

IN ACTU-
ALITY, YOU
CAN'T EVEN
DEFEAT A
KOKUGHI.

BUT THAT
STRENGTH
ONLY WORKS
IN FIGHTS
AGAINST
OTHER
HUMANS.

SHADOW
WORLD
FIGHTS ARE
QUITE A
DIFFERENT
STORY.

ZING

...
WHAT
?!

SO...
FAST...!



...FROM
A SIMPLE
MOVE LIKE
THIS.



JUST
LIKE
THAT
SHIN
SAID...



...YOU
THINK
THAT A
FIGHT AND
COMBAT
ARE THE
SAME
THING.



YOU
SEE?

YOU
CAN'T
EVEN
DEFEND
YOUR-
SELF...



PLUS,
DON'T TELL
ME THAT
YOU'RE
"HELPING"
ME...

...WHILE YOU
FIGHT HALF-
HEARTEDLY.

WITH THAT
WEAKNESS,
YOU'RE
DOOMED
TO LOSE.

YOUR
EYES CAN'T
FOLLOW
YOUR OPPO-
NENT'S MOVE-
MENTS FAST
ENOUGH.



AND
YOU'RE
DOOMED
TO DIE.



IT'S ~~IS~~
UNPLEASANT
TO HEAR.





DON'T....

...FOLLOW
ME ANY-
MORE!











OH
YEAH?



I'M NOT
ALWAYS
WITH HIM.

Oh
hmm

THAT
STRANGE-
LOOKING
MAN IN THE
MONOCHROME
OUTFIT.

"THAT
GUY"
?



You're
on my
black-
list too.

OF
COURSE
...

...I REALIZE
YOU'VE BEEN
TARGETED BY
QUITE A FEW
PEOPLE OVER
THE YEARS.



...BUT YOU
SHOULD
STOP
FIGHTING.

It's not that
safe around
here, after
all.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING
ON...



ACCORDING TO
THAT STRANGE
GUY WHO HANGS
OUT AROUND ME,
IT'S **COMBAT**,
NOT **FIGHTING**.



OH
REALLY?
WHAT IS
IT LIKE,
THEN?

PERSONALLY,
I'M NOT FOND
OF FIGHTING.
BUT WHAT I'M
INVOLVED IN
NOW ISN'T
FIGHTING LIKE
YOU THINK.







I KNEW IT!



THIS...



AKIRA!!







THIS
ISN'T
GOOD
AT
ALL.



WHA...?



TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

In the next

Monochrome Jockey

Surrounded by kokuchi and with Akira's shin blades broken, it's Aya to the rescue! The kokuchi's puppet master has more to say about Shirogane than he himself has been willing to reveal to Akira, so it's time to stop keeping secrets. And when Homurabi attacks Kengo, it's time for Akira to form a team to fight back!



Vaze? Naze? Neeze!!

IN THIS
MEMORABLE
PREMIERE,
WE'RE
COVERING
ARITHMETIC!

Fun with
Arithmetic
Grade 1

Arithmetic
for good boys
and girls.

I'M
SHIROGANE,
THE TEACHER
OF THE
COURSE.



THIS IS A
BRAND-
NEW
SHOW
CALLED
"NAZE?
NAZE?
NEEZE!!"

Shirogane ▶ Shirogane ▶ Naze

↑ Teacher costume

*Naze, Naze is "why" in Japanese



AND
HERE'S MY
ASSISTANT,
KOKUCHI!

I'M A HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENT,
BY THE
WAY.

Hi
there!

HERE WE
HAVE AKIRA-
KUN AND
KENGO-KUN,
WHO WILL
TACKLE THE
QUESTIONS
WITH US!



TWELVE
...

Kokuchi wrote this

HERE'S
THE FIRST
QUES-
TION.

AKIRA-
KUN,
WHAT'S
THREE
TIMES
FOUR?

TAP
302





I haven't shown Kengo to a white. They look like a different person.





Sorano Profile

- Name** Kaiti Sorano (Many people write the kaiti in my name wrong.)
- Birthdate** October 23
- Height** A "between and between" height, I'm afraid.
- Weight** Heavy
- Build** 25 cm (size 9)
- Features** Big, long, weird-looking fingers.
- Interests** Movies (I enjoy movies from the '70s, '80s and '90s, especially B movies), creating movies and games, survival horror games, bleaching and dying my hair (I try various colors such as red, blue and gray) using the computer.

Art and drawing tools, etc.

Copy paper

PPF Copy Paper Used for making the preliminary sketches. I make the final drawings by tracing the sketches with a pen.

Lightbox

My father made this lightbox and wooden frame using what he had at home. The box has a round fluorescent bulb inside that's very bright. Thanks to this cheap machine, it's easy on my back when I have to work long hours tracing.

Ballpoint

Dexter Marking Pen ballpoint I use it to place white on hair. You can use it just like a regular pen. Very easy to use.

Manuscript paper

I use **JO Manuscript Paper 180 g**. This is the easiest for me to use.

Ink

PILOT Ink for drawing. I like it because it's dark black. I have to be careful because it's not water resistant.

Pen ink

Water Mark Pen, Sakura G Pen, and Nikuni Pen Usually I use the Water Mark pen. When I need to draw something dynamic, I use the other two.

Eraser

MONO

Mechanical Pencil and Lead

STADTLER 0.5 For lead, I use Pentel's B.

Barrel

HASUN Pen Holder It's a heavy barrel made of aluminum. It's not too thin or too thick, and it fits in my hand perfectly. I wear tape on my hand to reduce the pressure from my pen.

Brush pen

Pentel Fude Pen (Fude Pen) It draws quickly. I use it for spot blacks. **Pentel Fude (Medium Point)** For spread effects.

Coloring tools

Digital Photoshop PSD, My Shade 6 I use Photoshop all the time. I use My Shade 6 to create a database for background images. **Analog Copix Sketch, Holbein** I like Copix because they're easy to use. It's hard to use Holbein, but I love the colors.



Analysis

Antenna

Always ready to receive signals carrying good material. However, this antenna is extremely selective.

Vision

Very poor. Basically, I need glasses.

Cigarettes

About one to three per day. I used to smoke Marlboro Manthel Lights, but now I smoke Cabin Manthels.

Frame

Many people think I'm athletic and a good runner, but I'm not really either. I don't know why... Maybe people say this because I'm big-boned?

Running speed

50 meters in less than 20 seconds.

Brain

Not too bright. Especially bad at math. Can't even do two-digit addition. I grew up watching too many action movies and have a wild, unrealistic imagination going all the time.

Hearing

My hearing is extremely selective. I can hear very well when I'm willing to listen, but I'm almost deaf when I don't care.

Hands

I often put them in boiling water on purpose.

Fashion

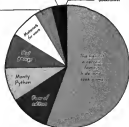
I used to wear a lot of black outfits during my teens, but now I like jeans and military clothes.

Said that I am small-tempered at least half the time

Yanker

Unknown

My typical day



Percentage of my game content

Oh?



...30 cm ones.

Optical Illusion



He does look short, doesn't he?

It's personality makes him look small



Talk

Hello to all the readers—whether you've been reading the series from volume one or are starting to read with this volume for some reason (LOL). This is Sorana. I can't believe volume two is out! We finally have some villainous characters. Good, good. Some of them are characters I've been wanting to draw for a long time, since even before I was given the chance to write *Monochrome Factor*, so I'm very excited.

Do you remember the "certain project" I mentioned in the last volume? It's actually "Naze? Naze? Naze!!" Let me tell you how this special project came to life. When we were working on episode #002, my assistants and I came up with a special comedy episode of *Monochrome Factor*. We got really carried away (LOL) and ended up coming up with enough ideas for more than ten episodes. Some of them could be full-length episodes. It's a lot of fun because I can throw in tons of jokes and funny drawings I could never use in the main story. I hope to write a full-length episode of "Naze? Naze? Naze!!" someday.

I appreciate the readers sending me fan mail. I receive lots of fan letters. I used to write back, but I'm afraid I'm too busy to do so these days... (Tears) But I read letters from fans over and over again. I hope I can write back someday!!

I work very slowly, but please continue to read *Monochrome Factor* and support the characters! (Bow) Hope to see you in volume 3...



Thanks

Editor ... Mr. Iida
Assistants ... Muffy, Koike,
Yusaka, Yukiko

...Thanks to all the people I
loved above!! By the way, is it
true our workshop is weird?

白銀 (3014)

Shirogane

Monochrome Factor
Character Profiles

2

■ Hat ■

He always wears it. He finally takes it off in this volume, but he doesn't look unusual without it (of course).

■ Vision ■

Left: 2.0,
Right: 2.0

■ Language ■

Polite, but suspiciously so. Is he hiding a sharp tongue?

■ Clothing ■

His clothes aren't at all revealing. All you can see is his face.

■ Fighting strength ■

He rarely fights, but he is very strong.

■ Brain ■

He has a split personality (LOL), and he's extremely deceptive.

■ Earrings ■

He actually wears two spherical earrings.

■ Smile ■

Although he's always smiling, he can't completely hide his dark side.

■ Frame ■

Fit and muscular.

■ Cane ■

It doesn't draw much attention.

■ Braids ■

Very, very long braid that looks really tight. Wonder if he ever washes his hair...

Age: Appears to be around 25.	Birthday: ?	Blood type: ?
Height: 181 cm (5'11")	Weight: 59 kg (130 lbs)	Shoe Size: 28 cm (size 10)
Weapons: A mysterious-looking cane. By the way, the head is supposed to be a skull, not an alien (LOL).		
Hobbies: Does he have any? (Sweat)		Special skills: Keeping secrets, wearing a goofy smile, putting on an innocent face.

<i>His likes</i>	<i>His dislikes</i>
<i>Color: Monochromatics</i>	<i>Color: Pink</i>
<i>Food: I wonder if he ever eats. It's a mystery.</i>	
<i>Books: I don't think he ever reads.</i>	
<i>Music: I guess he probably listens to something like classical music. (This is just a guess.)</i>	
<i>Games: I don't think he plays any...I'm sure he wouldn't.</i>	
<i>TV: I think he watches what Akira watches. (This is just a guess.)</i>	
<i>Movies: Same as above. (Hey!)</i>	
<i>Animals: I think he just pretends to be an animal lover. I think he actually hates them.</i>	
<i>Other: Although I wrote his profile, it just makes Shiragane even more mystifying. In fact, even the author doesn't fully understand this character... (Hey!)</i>	



■ Shiragane's Babble ■

Shiragane is called "Neeze" at work. It's almost as if everyone has forgotten his real name. When I started writing the series, Shiragane was supposed to be a cool, handsome young man. Now he's nothing but a weird and funny-looking guy (sweet). To be honest, Neeze reflects my fashion tastes. His gray hair, extremely long coat (or is it a jacket?), and extremely long French braid... And he likes goth fashion (LOL). It took a long time for me to decide what his character should look like, and I remember not being able to make up my mind until the last minute. By the way, his French braid was supposed to be much shorter, but I ended up making it that long without thinking too much (sweet). To be honest, it's a pain to draw... (Punching myself).



Kaili Sorano



Although it took a while, volume two has been finally published. I work very slowly, and I have to repress my innermost feelings that I might be causing people trouble. (Don't conceal such things!) But nothing really affects my speed. I always do things at my own pace and don't care what others think... A slow life is cool! (Yep, I'm a laser.)

Shirogane

